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Atty. Doc. No. 2002P10620US

Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1. (currently amended) A steam turbine rotor ~~(21, 30, 75) which extends~~ extending along an axial extent ~~(25, 34) and has comprising:~~

an outer side ~~(26a), which adjoins~~ adjoining an outer space ~~(27a, 35) which is intended~~ arranged to receive a main flow ~~(27, 36) of a fluid working medium (8);~~

a first location ~~(30a)~~ arranged along the outer side ~~(26a, 33), at which a first blade (41a) is held, characterized by, and~~

at least one integrated passage ~~(44, 46a, 46b, 93, 96, 103, 106), which extends~~ extending continuously at least between a first region ~~(28a, 72)~~ arranged in front of the first location ~~(30a)~~ and a second region ~~(28b, 73)~~ arranged behind the first location ~~(30a)~~.

2. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by wherein~~ a second location ~~(30b)~~ arranged along the outer side ~~(26a)~~, at which a second blade ~~(41b)~~ is held, the second location ~~(30b)~~ being arranged behind the first location ~~(30a)~~ along the axial extent ~~(25, 34)~~, and the passage ~~(44, 46a, 46b, 93, 96, 103, 106)~~ extending continuously at least between a first region ~~(28a, 72)~~ arranged in front of the first location ~~(30a)~~ and a second region ~~(28b, 73)~~ arranged behind the second location ~~(30b)~~.

3. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a number of further locations, at each of which a blade ~~(41a, 41b)~~ is held, are arranged between the first location ~~(30a)~~ and the second location ~~(30b)~~.

4. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one passage ~~(44, 46a, 46b, 93, 96, 103, 106)~~ is part of a combined passage system ~~(43)~~ which extends along the axial extent ~~(25, 34)~~.

5. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one passage ~~(44, 46a, 46b, 93, 96, 103, 106)~~ is part of a combined

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passage system (43) which has an external feed (70) which is provided for the incoming flow of cooling medium (10, 71).

6. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the at least one passage (44, 46a, 46b, 93, 96, 103, 106) is part of a combined passage system (43) which includes a channel (45) which at least partially encircles a circumferential extent of the rotor (21, 30, 75).

7. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the first region (28a) has a first opening (49, 99, 109) to the main flow (27, 36).

8. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the second region (28b) has a second opening (47, 99, 109) to the main flow (27, 36).

9. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the outer side (26a) of the rotor (21, 30, 75) is formed by a shielding plate (38) which can rotate with the rotor (21, 30, 75).

10. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein a shielding plate (38) which can rotate with the rotor (21, 30, 75) is held by a blade (41a, 41b), ~~in particular a blade root (39a, 39b).~~

11. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein a shield for the rotor shaft with respect to the main flow of the steam is at least partially formed by a blade root (39a, 39b).

12. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the passage (46a, 46b, 96, 106) leads through a blade (41a, 41b), in particular through a blade root (39a, 39b).

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13. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 12, characterized by further comprising a groove (40a, 40b) at a blade root (39a, 39b), which groove is part of the passage (44).

14. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 13, characterized by further comprising a bore (46a, 46a') through a single blade root (39a, 39a') and/or a bore (46a'') through two adjacent blade roots (39a''), which bore is part of the passage (44).

15. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 14, characterized by further comprising a channel (106, 110) in a main blade part (108), which channel is connected to the passage (44).

16. (currently amended) The steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 15, characterized in that wherein a thermally insulating coating made from a material which has a lower heat conduction coefficient than the base material of the blade is provided on a blade surface.

17. (currently amended) A steam turbine (77, 20), which includes the having a steam turbine rotor extending along an axial direction (21, 30, 75) ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 to 16, the steam turbine rotor comprising:~~

an outer side adjoining an outer space arranged to receive a main flow of a fluid working medium;

a first location arranged along the outer side, at which a first blade is held; and

at least one integrated passage extending continuously at least between a first region arranged in front of the first location and a second region arranged behind the first location.

18. (currently amended) A method for actively cooling a steam turbine rotor (21, 30, 75) ~~which extends~~ extending along an axial extent (25, 34) and has having an outer side (26a), which adjoins an outer space (27a, 35) which is intended to receive a main flow (27, 36) of a fluid

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working medium (8), and having a first location (30a) along the outer side (26a, 33), at which a first blade (41a) is held, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising:

providing a fluid cooling medium; and

guiding a the fluid cooling medium (10, 71) is guided continuously within the steam turbine rotor (21, 30, 75) along the axial extent (25), at least between a first region (28a, 72) arranged in front of the first location (30a) and a second region (28b, 73) arranged behind the first location (30a).

19. (currently amended) The method for actively cooling a steam turbine rotor as claimed in claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the steam turbine rotor (21, 30, 75) has a second location (30b) along the outer side (26a, 33), at which a second blade (41b) is held, the second location (30b) ~~being~~ arranged behind the first location (30a) along the axial extent (25, 34), and the fluid cooling medium (10, 71) ~~being~~ guided continuously at least between a first region (28a, 72) arranged in front of the first location (30a) and a second region (28b, 73) arranged behind the second location (30b).

20. (currently amended) The method for actively cooling a steam turbine rotor as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

guiding the cooling medium (10, 71) is guided in a combined passage system (43) along the axial extent (25, 34) over the first location (30a) and the second location (30b) and a number of intervening further locations (24), at each of which a blade (41a, 41b) is held.

21. (currently amended) The method for actively cooling a steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one~~ of claims 18 to 20, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

feeding the cooling medium (10, 71) is fed to the steam turbine rotor (21, 30, 75) from the outside (70).

22. (currently amended) The method for actively cooling a steam turbine rotor as claimed in ~~one~~ of claims 18 to 21, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

guiding the cooling medium is guided at a pressure which exceeds a pressure of the main flow (27, 36).

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23. (currently amended) The method for actively cooling a steam turbine rotor as claimed in one of claims 18 to 22, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

guiding the cooling medium (10, 71) ~~is guided~~ at a pressure which is modified (47, 48, 49, 99, 109) ~~in particular throttled~~, as a function of a pressure of the main flow (27, 36).

24. (currently amended) The method for actively cooling a steam turbine rotor as claimed in one of claims 18 to 23, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising:

supplying the cooling medium (10, 71) ~~is supplied~~ at a temperature and/or in an amount which is/are modified (47, 48, 49, 99, 109) as a function of a temperature of the main flow (27, 36).

25. (currently amended) The method according claim 18 ~~use of active cooling of a steam turbine rotor (21, 30, 75) for starting up and/or running down a steam turbine (77, 20), in particular for rapid cooling of a steam turbine (77, 20).~~